

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING RE:

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

PUBLIC HEARING

BAJA CALIFORNIA POWER, INC., AND SEMPRA ENERGY RESOURCES

El Centro, California

July 14, 2004

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.

RAYNBO COURT REPORTING, LTD.

3625 West Gailey Drive
Tucson, Arizona 85741
520/744-2293

Reported by: Sandalee Moring, CCR
Certified Court Reporter No. 50295

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
7/14/04

1 PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

2 El Centro, California

3 July 14, 2004

4

5 APPEARANCES:

6 ANTHONY COMO, Department of Energy

7 ELLEN RUSSELL, Department of Energy

8 RICHARD AHERN, Department of Energy

9 LYNDA KASTOLL, Bureau of Land Management

10

11

12 * * * *

13

14 BE IT REMEMBERED that pursuant to notice the above
15 Public Scoping Meeting was taken in the CITY HALL OF EL
16 CENTRO, 1275 West Main Street, in the City of El Centro,
17 County of Imperial, State of California, before Sandalee
18 Moring, CCR, Certified Court Reporter No. 50295, in and for
19 the County of Pima, State of Arizona, on the 14th day of
20 July, 2004, commencing at the hour of 11:00 a.m. on said
21 day.

22

23 * * * *

24

25

RAYNBO COURT REPORTING, LTD.

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
7/14/04

1 MR. ANTHONY COMO: Okay. For those of you just
2 sort of walking in, grab some refreshments and sit down.
3 While you're doing that, I will sort of start the meeting.
4 My name is Tony Como. I'm with the United States Department
5 of Energy. Thank you all for coming out this morning.

6 Why are we here? About two years ago the
7 Department of Energy issued a permit to two companies,
8 Semptra and InterGen, to build transmission lines across the
9 U.S. border that will ultimately connect with power plants
10 inside of the United States. The decision to issue those
11 permits was challenged in court. The court ruled that the
12 environmental analysis underlying our decision was not
13 adequate, and told the Department of Energy and the Bureau
14 of Land Management to go back and do some more analysis.
15 What we decided to do is a higher level of analysis called
16 an Environmental Impact Statement.

17 In May of this year we published and distributed a
18 Draft Environmental Impact Statement. At the time we opened
19 up a comment period that will close on July 30th. What we
20 are here today for is just one of the means of collecting
21 comments on that draft Environmental Impact Statement.

22 Some of you, actually, some of the county agencies
23 and state agencies have already sent written comments to us
24 in Washington, and I want to thank you for those now. Some
25 of you may choose to make oral comments here. Either one is

RAYNBO COURT REPORTING, LTD.

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
7/14/04

1 considered equally, whether it's written at home, e-mail,
2 fax, or anything you may say over here.

3 One of the points of confusion that seems to have
4 existed in some of the articles that I read, is that the
5 Environmental Impact Statement is not the decisional
6 document. The EIS, there are no decisions that are
7 contained in that document at all. It is a set of
8 environmental analyses that will be used by the
9 decision-makers in making the final decision.

10 There are other factors, also, in making the
11 decision. The objective of empirical environmental analysis
12 contained in the document is only one of those issues. So I
13 just wanted to get that clear.

14 Let me just talk a little bit about how we are
15 going to run this proceeding today. We're basically here to
16 collect comments on the draft document. Did we leave
17 anything out, did we get anything wrong. And because it's
18 important that we capture all of your statements and all of
19 your thoughts accurately, we have a court reporter here.
20 And that's the only reason we have her. She's not here to
21 presume any higher degree of formality, we just want to make
22 sure we are not missing anything.

23 So with that, let me just kind of point out some
24 of the courteous rules so it makes her job a little easier.
25 Every time you speak, whether it's the first time or you

RAYNBO COURT REPORTING, LTD.

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
7/14/04

1 choose to make subsequent statements later on in the
2 proceedings, every time you get up there, please, state your
3 name, especially the first time, if you could spell it for
4 her, also. Try to speak slowly and clearly so she can hear
5 you.

6 And, also, if you happen to use any technical
7 words, any jargon, you might want to spell it for her, also.
8 She sort of reserves the right to wave her hand and ask you
9 to repeat something or clarify something if she doesn't
10 understand.

11 Occasionally, if the proceeding goes on and on and
12 on she might need a break to either rest her fingers or
13 change the paper. So we will allow for that, also.

14 But beyond that, we are just going to be calling
15 you up. We don't have an overwhelming turnout over here.
16 We have the room until 1:00 this afternoon. At the moment I
17 don't see any reason to limit anybody's time at the podium.
18 But, at least, the first time through, I ask if you could
19 sort of try to keep it roughly to maybe the ten-minute mark.
20 In case a whole lot of other people start coming in later
21 on, we want to make sure that we have time to have them
22 speak, if they choose to. If nobody else shows up, we have
23 plenty of time left, you are more than welcome to raise your
24 hand and if you have any additional thoughts, come up and
25 present them to us. Okay?

RAYNBO COURT REPORTING, LTD.

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
7/14/04

1 So with that, I'm going to get back up there and
2 we'll call on our first speaker and we are going to go from
3 there. Thank you.

4 Oh, yeah, again, for the sake of the court
5 reporter and to the extent if you are standing up over there
6 and talking to us, that's wonderful, but it's possible that
7 some of your neighbors might like to hear that, also. So I
8 ask that you come up and either use the microphone at the
9 podium or you can sit down and use the one I am using right
10 now so everyone in the room can hear. Thanks.

11 Oh, yeah, where's my manners. With me here today,
12 Ellen Russell, who works with me in the office of Fossil
13 Energy; Linda Kastoll, from the Bureau of Land Management,
14 which is a cooperating agency in the preparation of the
15 document. And seated prominently front and center, is Rick
16 Ahern from the Department of Energy's Office of General
17 Counsel.

18 Also in the audience is Kurt Pisol and Dave
19 Tamaso. They are with Argonne National Laboratories.
20 Argonne is a national laboratory. They are contractors for
21 BLM and DOE. They are actually doing the environmental and
22 the technical analysis that help us prepare the EIS form.

23 Did I leave anything else out? Okay.

24 Thank you.

25 Okay. Our first speaker this morning is Inez

RAYNBO COURT REPORTING, LTD.